## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 4, 6, 14, and 16 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20 have been amended to merely clarify the recited invention without the intention of narrowing the scope of the claims. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-13, 15, 17-20 are now pending.

The present invention relates to method and system for passing examination. According to the present invention, a bearer of a travel document (TD) is issued a passing ticket with which the bearer can pass a gate only when the bearer is validated. The validation includes verifying the authenticity of the TD and the agreement between the information recorded on the TD and the information acquired from the bearer of the TD. In addition, the present invention also relates to passing examination system and method with multiple check points.

In response to the objections raised by the Examiner in Section 2 of the Office Action, dated October 4, 2002, relevant claims have been amended to overcome the informality objections.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11-13, 16, and 17 have been rejected (in Section 3 of the Office Action) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sweatte (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,688). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Sweatte fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims.

According to the amended claim 1, a bearer of a TD inserts the TD into a insertion port so that individual information recorded on the TD and specific information printed on the TD can be read by a reader. After certain biological information of the bearer is

acquired, the acquired biological information is collated with the individual information read from the TD. A passing ticket is issued only when an examination portion verifies the authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD and when the biological information acquired from the bearer is in agreement with the individual information read from the TD. That is, without being successfully validated, the bearer can not be issued with a passing ticket, which is required for the bearer to pass a gate.

Sweatte discloses an airport security system, in which when a passenger presents a ticket at a check-in counter, the passenger is required to show a government issued photo ID (e.g., a driver's license or a passport). The photograph on the ID is scanned and the passenger goes through a positive ID check based on some biological information such as fingerprint or palm print). A photo of the passenger is also taken. Such collected data is sent to a computer to check against a database. Before the check is completed, the check-in counter issues a wireless PASS smartcard to be used by the passenger as an electronic boarding pass. The passenger is permitted to leave once the PASS is issued. If the check against the database indicates any problem, the PASS card is tracked wirelessly to pursue the departed passenger (see column 4, line 26 to column 5, line 9).

According to Sweatte, the authenticity of the data obtained from the passenger at the check-in counter is not examined when the such is collected, the PASS smartcard is issued before the check is completed, and the passenger is allowed to leave the check point prior to being validated. In the present invention, a TD is authenticated immediately after the TD is presented, the collected individual information and biological information are verified before a passing ticket is issued, and the issuance of the passing ticket depends on the verification results. A bearer who is not validated by the passing examination system according to the present invention is not allowed to depart.

Furthermore, with the claimed invention, a bearer may be required to go through

multiple check points, at each of which, information contained in either the TD of the bearer or a passing ticket is verified to ensure authenticity. Therefore, Sweatte does not disclose, teach, or fairly suggest the same features as what are claimed in claim 1.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn. Claim 1 is now patentable.

The amended claim 11 contains features similar to those claimed in claim 1. As stated above, Sweatte does not teach or suggest that the check of collected information against a database to be completed before a PASS smartcard is issued and that a passenger can not depart before the passenger is approved, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn. Claim 11 is now patentable.

Claims 2, 3, and 7 depend from claim 1. Consequently, claims 2, 3, and 7 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 and for the addition features recited therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2, 3, and 7 under §102(e) be withdrawn.

Claims 12, 13, and 17 depend from claim 11. Consequently, claims 12, 13, and 17 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 11 and for the addition features recited therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 12, 13, and 17 under §102(e) be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 8-10, 15, and 18-20 have been rejected (Section 7 of the Office Action) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sweatte (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,688). The rejection is respectfully traversed. As stated above, Sweatte fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in rejected claims.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and, as indicated above, Sweatte does not teach or suggest that the check of collected information against a database to be completed before a

PASS smartcard is issued and that a passenger can not depart before the passenger is approved, as recited in claim 1.

Consequently, claim 5 is patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 and for the addition features recited therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 5 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 15 depends from claim 11 and, as indicated above, Sweatte does not teach or suggest that the check of collected information against a database to be completed before a PASS smartcard is issued and that a passenger can not depart before the passenger is approved, as recited in claim 11.

Consequently, claim 15 is patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 11 and for the addition features recited therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 15 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 8 claims a passing examination system with multiple check points. According to claim 8, a first check point contains features similar to those claimed in claim 1. With respect to the features claimed in claim 1, Sweatte does not teach or suggest that the check of collected information against a database to be completed before a PASS smartcard is issued and that a passenger can not depart before the passenger is approved, as recited in claim 1. In addition, a second check point is included in claim 8, where features substantially similar to the first check point are claimed.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn. Claim 8 is now patentable over Sweatte.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 8 and as stated above, Sweatte does not teach or suggest a check point where the check of collected information against a database to be completed before a PASS smartcard is issued and a passenger can not depart before the passenger is approved, as recited in claim 8. In addition, Sweatte does not teach or suggest

a second check point at which features substantially similar to the first check point are claimed.

Consequently, claims 9 and 10 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 8 and for the addition features recited therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 9 and 10 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

The amended claim 18 contains features similar to those claimed in claim 8. As stated above, Sweatte does not teach or suggest a security system with multiple check points where the check of collected information against a database is to be completed before a PASS smartcard is issued and a passenger can not depart before the passenger is approved or authenticated, as recited in claim 8.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn. Claim 18 is now patentable.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18. Consequently, claims 19 and 20 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 18 and for the addition features recited therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 19 and 20 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto as an attached Appendix captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made"** is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By:
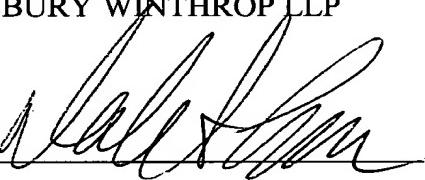
Dale S. Lazar
Reg. No.: 28872
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2126
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

DSL/QCH
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, Virginia 22102

(703) 905-2000

Enclosure:  Appendix

## APPENDIX

## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend the following claims:

1.      (Amended) A passing examination system comprising:

an insertion port to receive a Travel Document (TD) recording individual information which specifies a bearer;

a reader to read the individual information from the TD [inserted into the insertion port by the bearer] and specific information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted into the insertion port by the bearer;

an acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer;

a collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the acquiring portion with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer by the reader;

an examination portion to examine the authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and determine whether to approve the passing of the bearer [for approval or disapproval] based on [the] whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of collation by the collator;

a passing ticket issuer to issue a passing ticket to the bearer only [who] when the bearer is approved to pass [a gate] by the examination portion; and

a gate to approve the passage by accepting the passing ticket issued by the passing ticket issuer.


5.      (Amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a data[ ]base pre-recording individual information of a bearer whose passing is to

be rejected[;]‚

wherein the collator inquires <u>the database about</u> the individual information read by

the reader [to the data base], [and]

<u>wherein the examination portion determines to prohibit the bearer to pass the gate</u>

when [it is revealed that] the individual information exists in the data[ ]base as a result of

the [collation] <u>inquiry made</u> by the collator, [the examination portion prohibits the bearer

to pass the gate] <u>and</u>

<u>wherein the passing ticket issuer does not issue a passing ticket to the bearer when</u>

<u>the examination portion disapproves the bearer to pass the gate.</u>

7.      (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the passing ticket

issuer issues a passing ticket recording the biological information [already] <u>that has been</u>

collated by the examination portion to the bearer[;]‚ and

<u>wherein</u> the gate accepts the passing ticket inserted by the bearer, approves the

passage of the bearer, returns the passing ticket to the bearer who passed the gate, accepts

the returned passing ticket inserted again by the bearer, reads the biological information

recorded on the passing ticket‚ and approves the passage of the bearer through the gate in

[the] <u>an opposite</u> [reverse] direction.

8.      (Amended) A passing examination system comprising:

an insertion port to receive a Travel Document (TD) recording individual

information which specifies a bearer;

a reader to read the individual information from the TD [inserted into the insertion

port by the bearer] <u>and specific information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted into</u>

the insertion port by the bearer;

a first acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer;

a first collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the first acquiring portion with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer by the reader;

a first examination portion to examine the authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and determine whether to approve the passing of the bearer [for approval or disapproval] based on [the] whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of collation by the first collator;

a passing ticket issuer to issue a passing ticket recording the biological information that has been [already] collated by the first collator to the bearer only [who] when the bearer is approved to pass by the first examination portion;

a first gate to accept an inserted passing ticket issued [from] by the passing ticket issuer, approving the passage of the bearer in a first direction and returning the accepted passing ticket to the bearer;

a passing ticket insertion port to accept the [inserted] passing ticket [that was returned to the bearer who passed through] inserted by the bearer when the bearer moves in a second direction opposite to the first direction after the bearer passes the first gate in the first direction;

a passing ticket reader to read the biological information from the passing ticket inserted into the passing ticket insertion port by the bearer;

a second acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer;

a second collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the second acquiring portion with the biological information read from the passing ticket by

the passing ticket reader;

a second examination portion to [examine] <u>approve</u> the passage of the bearer [for approval or disapproval] based on [the] <u>whether the biological information of the bearer</u> <u>and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a</u> result of collation by the second collator; and

a second gate to [approve] <u>permit</u> the passage of the bearer in [a] <u>the</u> second direction [that is reverse to the first direction] based on the approval of the passage of the bearer by the second examination portion.


10.     (Amended) The system according to claim 8, further comprising:

a data[ ]base pre-recording individual information of a bearer whose passage is to be rejected[;]<u>,</u>

wherein the first collator inquires <u>the database about</u> the individual information read by the reader [to the data base]<u>,</u> [and]

<u>wherein the first examination portion determines to prohibit the bearer to pass the</u> <u>first gate in the first direction and not to issue a passing ticket</u> when [it is decided that] the individual information exists in the data[ ]base as a result of the [collation] <u>inquiry made</u> <u>by</u> the first collator[, the first examination portion prohibits the bearer to pass through the first gate in the first direction].


11.     (Amended) A passing examination method, comprising [the steps of]:

accepting an inserted TD containing individual information specifying a bearer of the TD;

reading the individual information from the TD [inserted by the bearer] <u>and</u> <u>specific information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted by the bearer</u>;

acquiring biological information of the bearer;

collating the acquired biological information of the bearer with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer;

examining the authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and whether to approve the [passage] passing of the bearer [for approval or disapproval] based on [the] whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of the collation;

issuing a passing ticket to the bearer only [who] when the bearer is approved to pass [the] an immigration gate by the examination; and

approving the passage of the bearer by accepting the [issued] inserted passing ticket [that is inserted].

15.     (Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising [the steps of]:

inquiring a database about the individual information read [in] during the reading, wherein the database [to the data base] pre-record[ed]s [with the] individual information of a bearer whose passing is to be rejected; and

prohibiting the [passage] passing of the bearer when [it is revealed that] the individual information of the bearer is contained in the data[ ]base as a result of the inquiry.

17.     (Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein a passing ticket recording the biological information that [is already] has been collated [in] during the examination [step] is issued to the bearer [in] during the [passing ticket] issuing [step], and

upon accepting the passing ticket inserted by the bearer, the passing of the bearer is approved, the passing ticket is returned to the bearer, the passing ticket inserted again by the bearer is accepted, the biological information recorded on the passing ticket is read, and the passing of the bearer in [the] an opposite [reverse] direction is approved in the approving [step].


18.     (Amended) A passing examination method, comprising [the steps of]:

accepting a T[t]ravel D[d]ocument (TD) recording individual information specifying a bearer;

reading the individual information from the [inserted] TD and specific information printed on the TD, wherein the TD is inserted into an insertion port by the bearer;

acquiring the biological information of the bearer;

collating the acquired biological information of the bearer with the individual information read from the TD;

examining the authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and whether to approve the passing of the bearer [for approval or disapproval] based on [the] whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of the collation;

issuing a passing ticket recording the collated biological information to the bearer only [who] when the bearer is approved to pass a gate in the examination [step];

approving the bearer to pass the gate in [the] a first direction by accepting the [inserted issued] passing ticket after the passing ticket is inserted and returning the accepted passing ticket to the bearer;

accepting the [inserted] passing ticket after the returned passing ticket is inserted

again [that was returned to the bearer] when the bearer moves in a second direction

opposite to the first direction after the bearer passes in the first direction;

reading the biological information [of] recorded on the passing ticket that is

inserted by the bearer;

acquiring the bearer's biological information;

examining whether to approve the passing of the bearer [for approval or

disapproval] based on [the] whether the biological information of the bearer and the

individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of the

collation; and

approving the passing of the bearer in the second direction [that is reverse to the

first direction].


20.     (Amended) The method according to claim 18, further comprising [the

steps of]:

inquiring a database about the individual information read [in] during the reading

[step to a data base], wherein the database pre-records [pre-recording] individual

information of a bearer whose passing is to be rejected; and

prohibiting to issue a passing ticket to the bearer and the passage of the bearer in

the first direction when [it is revealed that] the individual information of the bearer is

contained in the data[ ]base as a result of the inquiry.